

Pay-As-You-Throw

Waste Reduction at its best!



Why PAYT?

- Single most effective tool to reduce waste and increase recycling
- Equitable – like utilities, you pay for what you use
- Environmental benefits – more recycling less waste
- Savings in avoided disposal costs
- Signals to residents true costs of waste



Program Design Options

- Imprinted trash bags w/Town name/seal
- Stickers to apply to container of choice or specific items
- Barrel/wheeled cart marked with fixed pick-up charge
- Bulky waste and appliances



How costs are covered under PAYT

Several Options:

- Residents pay for each container of trash
- “Hybrid” - Flat fee + unit-based
 - Flat fee covers fixed costs (revenue stability)
 - Unit-based fee covers variable costs
 - Basic level of Service
 - 1 container/wk “free” (cost included in flat fee or tax levy) Residents buy additional bags/stickers as needed
- Cart-based program



Who's Got PAYT?

- 143 Massachusetts municipalities
- Many programs 20 years old or more
- More than a decade:
 - Brockton, Gloucester, Natick, Worcester, Taunton
- More recently:
 - Plymouth, Ludlow, Sandwich
- Established practice on the West Coast:
 - San Francisco, Seattle, Portland OR

It works for the Big...

- City of Brockton curbside
- Pop. 98,000
- Millions of dollars saved in avoided disposal cost since start of program in 2001





It works for the medium & small...

- **Attleboro Curbside Pop. 42,000**
 - 1st year avoided disposal cost >\$365 thousand and
 - Compliance rate 98%-99%
- **Needham Drop-off Pop. 30,581**
 - 1st year SW tons down from 12,500 to 6,800 and cost savings were approx. \$434,454
- **Cohasset Drop-off Pop. 7,750**
 - 1st year \$ savings in avoided disposal costs were over \$100,000



Challenges & Overcoming Them

- Public perception fee = tax
 - Consider “Revenue neutral” approach – reduce property tax or flat fee by amt unit-based fees are expected to generate
- Concern for low-income households
 - Like some other programs, PAYT program may also include lowered rates for demonstrated hardship
- Illegal Dumping
- Start-up Costs



Illegal dumping

- Happening now without PAYT
 - Mostly white goods, TVs, C&D, tires, yard waste
 - Illegal dumping studies indicates majority of dumping is commercial and likely **not** linked to PAYT
 - Reports from PAYT municipalities indicate that the majority do not experience an increase in dumping with implementation
 - **Key** is to have regulations, act promptly, and impose fines if needed

City of Malden's Strategy

- **Announce enforcement policy.**
 - Formally announce an enforcement policy before any trash-related ordinance or regulation changes.
- **Identify illegal dumping locations and post signage.**
 - Notify neighbors of the new signage installation.
 - Provide “hotline” for anonymous complaints or information.
- **Inspect the areas frequently.**
 - Publicly announce the incidents when violators are identified.
 - Provide Inspectors with nitrile gloves and then open dumped containers and look for offender information.

Community Compliance / Enforcement

- Lead time and political will.
- Engaging the public.
 - * Community meetings
 - * Trash Task Force
 - * Ordinance Development Committee
- Outreach & Informational Materials.
 - * Refusal Stickers
 - * Door Hangers
 - * Non compliant trash relocation / collection
 - * Fines – When and how much ?
 - * Translate all info into languages spoken



Bottom line on PAYT

- Equitable way to fund trash/recycling
- Economic benefits - decrease waste disposed & increase recycling
- Effective incentive to reduce waste
- Environmental benefits
 - Less waste, more recycling protects natural resources, air, land and water



What can MassDEP do to help?

- PAYT web page
- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/pay-as-you-throw-payt.html>
- Free technical assistance:
 - Program planning
 - Financial modeling
 - Program implementation
- Grant Program
 - Up to \$200,000 in start-up grants



For more info...

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